52 Days of Building a Second Wall of the Word and Wisdom

**The Prophetic Voice of God’s Forerunners**

Day 24 – June 6, 2013

As we have been studying Psalm 119 these past few weeks, it is obvious that God desires us to value His Word and to **gain wisdom** for our lives from it. This wisdom is not for us to amass as a great treasure and then put it in a treasure chest for us to gaze at from time to time; but for us to **use to help others come to know the Lord and to grow in a deeper relationship with Him.**

In order to prepare for the Lord’s return, He is raising up forerunners. Webster’s defines a **forerunner** as **one who goes before others to prepare the way for something that is coming.**  They bring news to the people of what is to happen. They are a **messenger sent beforehand to give notice of the expected approach of someone.**

In the days of medieval kings, a forerunner would ride a day's journey before the court when traveling, to make preparations for lodgings and other accommodations. They would **make sure that everyone knew the king was coming and that all was prepared for his arrival!**

That is what forerunners are to do in this age. **The King of kings is coming soon to visit all the people of the earth, face to face.**  He has called His remnant to awaken and take up the charge to be forerunners for His return. He is coming soon and **we must get instructions from Him and follow them with complete obedience so we and others will be prepared for His return!**

God is looking for tender hearts that will listen to Him with obedience and come into their rightful positions. In 2 Kings 22, when God desired to bring restoration and change to His people, He chose a child to be king with a tender heart that would hear His Words and be obedient to what he heard. **Please read 2 Kings 22.**

The High Priest Hilkiah found the Word of God in the damaged temple King Josiah ordered to be restored. The scribe Shaphan read the Word to the King. He was overcome with repentance for himself and his people when he heard the words. The king then ordered the priest, the scribe, and Asaiah, the king’s servant to go ask the Lord what he needed to do. They went to the prophetess Huldah and this is what God said through her:

**2 Kings 22:19-20** "because your **heart was tender** and you **humbled yourself** before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, **I truly have heard you**, declares the LORD. Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in **peace**, and your eyes will not see all the evil which I will bring on this place."

King Josiah’s heart was tender and it sprang to life when he heard the commandments, judgments, statutes, precepts, and instructions of the Lord. The Word of God was not just words written on a page, but it became living to the king. His tender heart was forever changed for the Lord; and throughout his reign, there was peace in his kingdom because he restored the Word, Worship, and Worthy Prayers back into the House of God.

In order for the king to come to the full realization of the Word of God, he brought a team together. He wanted to know what the Lord wanted them to do now. Was it too late to walk in His ways? **2 Kings 22:12** shows us the team: **“**Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant to the king.”

When we look at the meanings of these names, we get a **message**:

*God is our portion. He is raising up brothers to gnaw away the entanglements of His people. Who is like God? His people are on the brink of knowing that He has made all things.*

It is interesting to see who was on this team: a **priest**, a **scribe**, a **servant** of the king, and members of the **younger generation**. They joined with a **prophetess** to make the group complete. In preparation for the King of king’s return, He is requesting these positions to be filled by His remnant, His forerunners to bring life to all people on the earth.

**Please read Acts 6:1-4.** There was a time in the early church when the number of people in the church started to grow very large, and the disciples could not do all the work that was needed. They came before the congregation and divided up the responsibilities. They, as the priests of the congregation, would focus on prayer and ministry of the Word; while other men, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, would be appointed to serve the people’s needs

**Priests** are to focus on **prayer and ministry of the Word**. They find the truths in God’s Word and present it in a way that **brings life** to the congregation.

**Ezekiel 44:15-16** "But the Levitical priests … shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood (*intercession*)," declares the Lord GOD. "They shall enter My sanctuary; they shall come near to My table to minister to Me and keep My charge.

**Scribes** are teachers and writers who are skilled in God’s Word. They **define the truths found in the Scriptures** and present it in a clear way to show God’s followers **how to live**.

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

**Prophets** are those who **hear the voice of God and speak His truths** to the people. They **make the Word of God living**.

The men King Josiah sent to inquire of God, asked a prophetess to join their group, because they knew the importance of her position. Huldah was known as one who heard from God. The name Huldah comes from the Hebrew root cheled, which means to glide swiftly. Perhaps Huldah's name reflects her **quickness of mind** and her **ability to swiftly and rightly discern** the things of God. God used her prophetic voice to share His coming judgments to His people, and spark one of the greatest revivals in Israel. A prophet must be able to quickly discern what God is speaking in these last days.

**Servants** are men and women filled with the Holy Spirit and of wisdom, who are appointed to serve the people’s needs. In King Josiah’s time, they were administrators, accountants, project managers, doorkeepers, workmen to repair the temple (carpenters, builders, masons), and suppliers of wood and stone. In the early church as well as now, they take care of the people’s needs, whether it is physical needs, emotional counseling, spiritual teaching, or comforting prayer. Servants know God’s Word and are **obedient to the truths** found in it; they **live the Word of God**.

**James 1:27** “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

God’s messages must go out to all people to repent and prepare for the return of the Lord. **Forerunners must operate in the authority God has given them to gather and call out the Next Generation to Arise!**

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

Tomorrow we will look at some forerunners in the Word of God. **Make of list of who you consider to be forerunners in the Word of God.**

Please **continue to read Psalm 119:49-72**. We hope you are seeing how vital it is for us to have the Word of God living inside our minds and hearts.

Continue to work on your **memory verse, Psalm 119:58**.